

February 13, 2023

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Liz Jacob, I am a resident of New Haven, and I'm a Yale Law student and member of the Semilla Collective.

I proudly write to you today in support of H.B. No. 6616: AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF HUSKY HEALTH BENEFITS TO THOSE INELIGIBLE DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY to all Connecticut residents, regardless of their immigration status, is a critical step to ensure that our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. Healthcare is a human right and we must open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

As a daughter of immigrants, the experience of growing up in a working-class immigrant community is deeply personal to me. I know our communities' struggles to access health care, specifically preventative healthcare and mental health care. My experience growing up in an immigrant household fostered in me a deep respect for community and a passion for justice. These are the values that have fueled my life and they are the reason that I want to commit to advancing racial, social, and economic justice in communities that I'm a part of. That's why I'm pursuing a career in environmental justice law and writing to you today to advance the fight for healthcare for all.

Also, as a member of Yale Law School's Immigrants Right Clinic, I have the privilege of working as a student attorney at New Haven Legal Aid and supporting people throughout New Haven navigating the immigration system. Through this work, I see firsthand how the lack of access to healthcare adds even more stress to families and communities already navigating a complicated and unjust immigration system. As a Yale student, I am incredibly privileged to have access to health care through my university, and it breaks my heart that other members in my community don't have the same access. Healthcare should be a right for all and not a privilege for the elite or the wealthy.

Finally, as a member of the Semilla Collective, I work in solidarity with immigrant communities throughout New Haven to fight for immigrant, worker, and social justice. This work provides me the privilege and opportunity to work with immigrant justice leaders who have incredible visions to make our community safer, healthier, and stronger. These visions include correcting the injustice that many

of my friends and collective members face, the unjust lack of access to safe, affordable, culturally competent, and effective healthcare.

I support H.B. No. 6616 and I ask the Human Services Committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,  
Li Jacob